

**Michael A. Mares, PhD, Director,  
Sam Noble Museum, University of Oklahoma**

Museum director and scientist, Michael A. Mares has a rodent, a bat, and a parasite named after him. He directs and helped build the Sam Noble Museum, one of the world's finest university natural history museums.

Mares received a biology degree at the University of New Mexico, an MS from Fort Hays Kansas State University, and a PhD from the University of Texas at Austin. He has published 12 books and more than 200 scientific papers. He is a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, former president of the Natural Science Collections Alliance, and former president of the American Society of Mammalogists.

He has discovered more than a dozen mammals that were new to science. The Fulbright Organization, Ford Foundation, National Chicano Council on Higher Education, National Science Foundation, National Geographic Society, and the Institute of Museum and Library Studies have supported his work and his museum.

He was a member of the Commission on the Future of the Smithsonian, a Board Member of the Fulbright Organization, an advisor to the Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution, and Chair of the Biological Sciences Advisory Committee for the National Science Foundation. His museum received the National Heritage Preservation Award in 2004 and the IMLS U. S. National Medal for Museums in 2014 that was presented at the White House by Michelle Obama.

The museum was named a Best in Heritage Laureate by the European Heritage Association in Dubrovnik in 2015, and received the first International University Museums and Collections Award in Helsinki, Finland in 2017 for outstanding community programs and outreach education.